

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT



#### FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

United States ex rel. Jasmeka Collins, Relator,

v.

Trustmark Recovery Services; Medical Business Office, Defendants.

Case No. 17-cv-04457

## **RELATOR'S EXHIBIT LIST**

COMES NOW, Relator, Jasmeka Collins, and respectfully submits the following Exhibit List in connection with this case. As discussed during the last court date, Relator shares certain exhibits with Relator Kenya Sibley as they pertain to the Qui Tam portion of this case. However, Relator has assigned different exhibit numbers to ensure clarity in the record. Additionally, Relator submits individual exhibits related to the retaliation component of this case.

## I. SHARED EXHIBITS (QUI TAM CLAIM)

Exhibit No. Corresponding Exhibit No.

The following exhibits are shared with Relator Kenya Sibley but are numbered separately for my submissions:

	(Kenya Sibley's Affidavit)	Description
Exhibit	Exhibit 6	Borenstien Damage calculations Method
Exhibit 2,3,	Exhibit 7	Ucmc cost report calculations for bad debt; Zoho Report, productivity report showing accounts not being worked, 120 day rule
Exhibit [X]	Exhibit 7a	University of Chicago cost report
Exhibit [X]	Exhibit 8	OIG and fraud finding report (Community Hospital Refund Demand)
Exhibit 6,7	Exhibit 9	Community Hospital Cost Report
Exhibit5,6	Exhibit 10	Methodist Cost Report
Exhibit 7	Exhibit 10	University of Illinois Hospital Cost Report

### II. INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS (RETALIATION CLAIM)

The following exhibits are submitted **exclusively for my retaliation claim** and do not overlap with the Qui Tam claim:

#### **Exhibit No.** Description

Exhibit 1 Client list and job description from Sandy Schade

Exhibit 4 Income statement Social Security

#### III. ATTACHED EXHIBITS

Relator attaches the above-referenced exhibits in support of this submission.

## IV. REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Relator respectfully requests that the Court acknowledge this Exhibit List and permit its inclusion in the record for reference during proceedings.

## Respectfully submitted,

Jasmeka Collins 54 w 153<sup>rd</sup> Place 773-765-8398 Jasmeka Collins

**Dated:** 02/18/2025

Exhibit 1 client list for MBO and TRUSTMARK, Job description from Sandy Shade.

# MEDICAL BUSINESS OFFICE TRUSTMARK RECOVERY SERVICES

# **Position Description**

Job Title: Collections Manager

Department: Legal - Collections

Reports to: Legal - Collections Manager

FLSA: Exempt

#### JOB SUMMARY

We are seeking an individual with significant experience in collections and credit policy, The primary purpose of the Collections Manager is to manage collections staff and report to Legal-Collections Manager to strategically manage operational procedures. The Collections Manager oversees department goals and must be familiar with a variety of the field's concepts, practices, and procedures. Rely on experience and judgment to plan and accomplish goals. A wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected.

#### **ESSENTIAL JOB RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Responsible for creating a positive work environment which maximizes individual and team performance,
- Assesses departmental and individual performance through auditing techniques.
- Establish and maintain the collections department's operating standards, collection policies, goals/objectives, and procedures.
- > Optimize collections while also ensuring customer relationships remain strong, often finding creative win-win solutions with internal and external customers
- ➤ Stay current with changes in state and federal laws governing debt collections and bankruptcy ➤ Ensure the Collection team operates within the confines of the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), FCRA, TCPA, ACA and other compliance policies.

#### KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS! ABILITIES

- > Drives for results, proactively solves complex problems and consistently delivers under tight deadlines,
- Strong analytical and problem solving skills, interpersonal skills and ability to develop working relationship with the business leaders within the company
- Excellent written verbal communication, and negotiation skills required; skills and the ability to communicate effectively across departments and at different levels.
- Attention to detail with the ability to identify/resolve problems and document the outcome.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.

- Results Focuses on achieving results. Works to retain customers and displace competitors. Manages operating expenses to appropriate levels.
- Team Leadership Provides clear, timely, and effective feedback to team members. Models effective team behavior and solicits 360 degree feedback in assessing performance. Clarifies roles and responsibilities. Invests in providing development plans for team members.

#### PHYSICAL DEMANDS

- Ability to sit and work at a computer terminal for extended periods of time
- Ability to operate standard office equipment used in everyday work activities
- Ability to maintain concentration and attention to detail in order to maintain accurate records.

#### I, JASMEKA COLLINS ACCEPT AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Employment status change from exempt to hourly. Effective today 4/4/2017.
- > A new pay rate in the amount of \$12.00 per hour. Effective today 4/4/2017.
- Shelly Watson as my direct point of contact for all questions and concerns. She is also now my new direct Legal Collection Manager.
- > Trustmark's paperless policy. Patients must not be mailed receipts, statements or payment reminder notices
- Enforce all current policies and procedures. Patients must add post-dated payments to their account in order to qualify for a payment plan or to avoid garnishment.
- Collectors must continue to send Attorney letters and Validation of debt letters on behalf of both Trustmark and Attorney Rosen.

Client Mnemonic	Client Name	Client ID	Group NPI	Tax-ID	Client Primary Contact Person	Management/Tickets	Bad Debt vendor
MBOAM	Advanced Care Medical Specialists PC	5132	1689030918	47- 5435388	Liza Gonzalez- 219-301-7240- Igonzales@medicalspecialists.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K/Jonnarda-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Emily-Proposals	TRS/MBO COMBINED least sophisticated consumer All accounts sent to bad debt intentionally illegally in error in violation of false claims act and in violation of the FDCPA
MBOBA	Bindal Anesthesiologists	5012	1538115407	36- 3373028	Vijay Gupta MD- 219-757-5275- vijay1550@yahoo.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOCG	CardioSpecialists Group, LTD	5134	1497704514	36- 2662502	Barbara 219-319-0308	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>MBOCH</u>	The Community Hospital Anesthesia	5045	1982653044	35- 1107009	Lou Molina-219-392-7004/219-392-7003 Imolina@comhs.org	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira-F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z-Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOCL	Chicagoland Integrated Professionals, Inc.	5112	1649688409	46- 5737836	Ushma Sharma- (217) 553-5766- sks3880@gmail.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
МВОСР	Centers for Pain Control, Inc.	5055	1790920452	26- 3681128	UJ Puranik-(219) 326-7246- uj@discover-cpc.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira-F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z-Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOCC	Centers for Pain Control, Inc Chiropractors	5055			UJ Puranik-(219) 326-7246- uj@discover-cpc.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOIP	Interventional Pain Management, LLC	- Ci nterventional Pain 5055 Po Management, LLC 11648	1801349386 - Crown Point 1164833687 - Hobart	45- 2192531	UJ Puranik-(219) 326-7246- uj@discover-cpc.com UJ Puranik-(219) 326-7246- uj@discover-cpc.com	same as above	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error

			1306274097 - LaPorte 1083051346 - Valparaiso		UJ Puranik-(219) 326-7246- uj@discover-cpc.com UJ Puranik-(219) 326-7246- uj@discover-cpc.com	same as above	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBODM	Dacia Medical Professional Corp	5117	1154376234	74- 3037873	Dr. Grija-708-358-1299 catalinagrija@yahoo.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>MBOFP</u>	Fishermen's Community	5126	1235418146 - Physician (Part B)	59- 0914771	Rhonda Bezanis-305-289-6424 305-9239475 rhonda.bezanis@fhcares.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Monica L-Billing &	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
	Hospital, Inc.		1851346787 - Hospital (Part A)		Rhonda Bezanis-305-289-6424 305-9239475 rhonda.bezanis@fhcares.com	contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>MBOHC</u>	Heart Care Centers of South Chicago, LTD	5005	1295906147	26- 1900209	Connie Pantoja-773-933-0700 connie1012@sbcglobal.net	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Monica L-Billing &	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>MBOID</u>	Innovative Dermatology	5135	1801967633	87- 0771370	Suzanne Heuberger-773-871-7000 sheuberger@sbcglobal.net	contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOLA	Lakeshore Anesthesia	5035	1548210560	30- 0334012	Dani Dean-574-522-0800 574-522-0600 dani.dean00@gmail.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Monica L-Billing &	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>MBOMF</u>	Miklos Foot and Ankle Specialists, PC	5127	1235384488	26- 3789095	Dr. David Miklos 773-586-5487 dmiklos783@gmail.com	contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOPP	Pulmonary and Critical Care Physicians, PC	5137	1265514202	30- 0023753	Kathy Bujwit kbujwit@MACNEAL.COM	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Monica L-Billing &	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBORO	Riverside Orthopedics, LTD	5115	1316051741	05- 0564332	Jessica Garcia 708-484-9480 myguero00@yahoo.com	contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Monica L-Billing &	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOSA	Stat Anesthesia	5140	1992754089 - Lansing, IL	20- 4195921	Peter J. Pollachek 708-895-9450	contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
	Specialists, LTD		1699724781 - St. John, IN	+133321	Peter J. Pollachek 708-895-9450	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOIM	Interventional Pain Management, LTD	5140	1891726345 - Lansing, IL	36- 4303261	Peter J. Pollachek 708-895-9450	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error

			1033155080 - St. John, IN		Peter J. Pollachek 708-895-9450	•	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>MBOSC</u>	St. Catherine Hospital Anesthesia	5025	1649346537	35- 1738708	Lori McBride 219-392-2622 219-934-8255 cmanojlovich@comhs.org	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Monica L-Billing &	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOSL	South Chicago Sleep Lab, Inc.	5040	1912074147	51- 0582659	Felecia Molina 773-375-1845 felecia@sleepwellchicago.onmicrosoft.com	contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOSM	Salcedo Medical Center	5136			n/a	same as above	
MBOSO	South Suburban Cardiology	5139			n/a	same as above	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOTB_	Trilab, LLC	5128	1629458252	47- 3473883	n/a	same as above	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in erro
MBOTR	Timothy Raykovich	5138	1265541981	31- 4505145	n/a	same as above	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
MBOVR	Veronica Ralick	5113	1265786925	46- 1198900	Dr. Veronica Ralick 219-718-9644 vmralick@gmail.com	Monica L-Billing & contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT. Monica L-Billing &	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>wwr</u>	Wolcott Wood & Taylor				Jennifer Weston 312-704-2354 westonj@wwtps.com	contract.Ameira- F/U.Kenya-CS.Anna Z- Refund. Anne K-Cash posting.Allen-IT.	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>UIC</u>	University of Illinois Hospital				219-922-5212	same as above	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
U of C	University of Chicago Hospital				219-934-5300	same as above	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
<u>Trs</u>	All of Trustmark Contracts				219-922-5201	Kenya- Director (Legal, Bad Debt Collectors, Data entry and Payment Posters, Jasmeka- Bad Debt Collectors Manager, Deb Porter- Client	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error
TRS Legal	Trustmark Attorney Jeffrey Rosen				219-614-3323 illegally sued all of TRS/MBO UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO & UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PATIENTS FOR FALSE BAD DEBTS	Liason Shelly Watson- Legal Clerk Team Lead, Katie P & Hannah D. (All Employees Report to Kenya)	TRS All accounts sent to bad debt in error



# Your Social Security Statement

#### JASMEKA COLLINS

#### **Retirement Benefits**

You have earned enough credits to qualify for retirement benefits. To qualify for benefits, you earn credits through your work - up to four each year.

Your full retirement age is **67**, based on your date of birth: May 27, 1980. As shown in the chart, you can start your benefits at any time between **ages 62** and **70**. For each month you wait to start your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher—for the rest of your life.

These personalized estimates are based on your earnings to date and assume you continue to earn \$0 per year until you start your benefits. Learn more at ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html.

#### **Disability Benefits**

To get benefits if you become disabled right now, you need 23 credits of work, and 20 of these credits had to be earned in the last 10 years. Your record shows you do not have enough credits at this time to receive disability benefits. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/disability</u>.

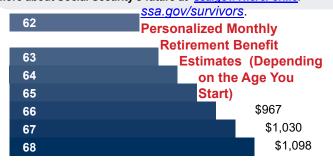
#### **Survivors Benefits**

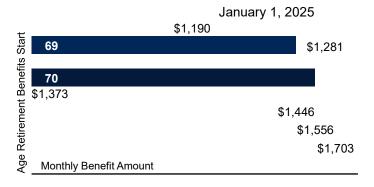
You have earned enough credits for your eligible family members to receive survivors benefits. If you die this year, members of your family who may qualify for monthly benefits include:

Minor child:	\$1,494
Spouse, if caring for a disabled child or child	
younger than age 16:	\$1,494
Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age:	\$1,993
Total family benefits cannot be more than:	\$3,510
Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for ar	1

additional one-time death benefit of \$255. Learn more at

We base benefit estimates on current law, which Congress has revised before and may revise again to address needed changes. Learn more about Social Security's future at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/ThereForMe">ssa.gov/ThereForMe</a>.





#### Medicare

You have enough credits to qualify for Medicare at age 65

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people:

- age 65 and older,
- under 65 with certain disabilities, and
- of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Even if you do not retire at age 65, you may need to sign up for Medicare within 3 months of your 65th birthday to **avoid a lifetime late enrollment penalty**. Special rules may apply if you are covered by certain group health plans through work. For more information about Medicare, visit <u>medicare.gov</u> or <u>ssa.gov/medicare</u> or call **1-800-MEDICARE** (**1-800-633-4227**) (TTY **1-877-486-2048**).

#### **Earnings Record**

Review your earnings history below to ensure it is accurate because we base your future benefits on our record of your earnings. There's a limit to the amount of earnings you pay Social Security taxes on each year. Earnings above the limit do not appear on your earnings

record. We have combined your earlier years of earnings below, but you can view your complete earnings record online with *my* Social Security. **If you find an error**, view your full earnings record online and call **1-800-772-1213**.

Work Year	Earnings Taxed for Social Security	Earnings Taxed for Medicare (began 1966)	
1991-2000	\$14,407	\$14,407	
2001-2005	\$119,842	\$119,842	

2006	\$56,444	\$56,444
2007	\$59,797	\$59,797
2008	\$58,240	\$58,240
2009	\$57,636	\$57,636
2010	\$63,415	\$63,415
2011	\$15,227	\$15,227
2012	\$0	\$0
2013	\$0	\$0
2014	\$0	\$0
2015	\$11,448	\$11,448
2016	\$41,178	\$41,178
2017	\$7,231	\$7,231
2018	\$0	\$0
2019	\$4,451	\$4,451
2020	\$12,489	\$12,489
2021	\$0	\$0
2022	\$0	\$0
2023	\$0	\$0
2024	Not yet recorded	Not yet recorded

#### **Taxes Paid**

Total estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes paid over your working career based on your Earnings Record:

Social Security taxes
You paid: \$32,038

Medicare taxes
You paid: \$7,557

Employer(s): \$32,343 Employer(s): \$7,557 Earnings

**Not Covered by Social Security** 

You may also have earnings from work not covered by Social Security, where you did not pay Social Security taxes. This work might have been for federal, state, or local government or in a foreign country. If you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. Learn more at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/gpo-wep">ssa.gov/gpo-wep</a>.

# Important Things to Know about Your Social Security Benefits

- Social Security benefits are not intended to be your only source of retirement income. You may need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to make sure you have enough money when you retire.
- You need at least 10 years of work (40 credits) to qualify for retirement benefits. The amount of your benefit is based on your highest 35 years of earnings. If you have fewer than 35 years of earnings, years without work count as 0 and may reduce your benefit amount.
- To keep up with inflation, benefits are adjusted through "cost of living adjustments."
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children may qualify for benefits.
- When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for both benefits at the same time.
- The age you claim benefits will affect your surviving spouse's benefit amount. For example, claiming benefits after your full retirement age may increase the Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age amount on page 1; claiming early may reduce it.
- If you and your spouse both work, use the my Social Security Retirement Calculator to estimate spousal benefits.
- If you are divorced and were married for 10 years, you may be able to claim benefits on your exspouse's record. If your ex-spouse receives benefits on your record, that does not affect your or your current spouse's benefit amounts.
- Learn more about benefits for you and your family at <u>ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/</u> <u>applying7.html</u>.
- When you are ready to apply, visit <u>ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html</u>.
- The Statement is updated annually. It is available online, or by mail upon request.

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# **Retirement Ready**



# Fact Sheet For Workers Ages 18-48

# Retirement is different for everyone

Retirement is not one-size-fits-all. Because Social Security is more than just retirement benefits, we want to provide you with the information you need to plan for and make informed decisions about your future retirement.

# Earnings are essential

You have probably been paying Social Security and Medicare taxes (also known as FICA taxes, or SECA taxes if you are self-employed) since you first began working. Learn more about these taxes at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10297.pdf">ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10297.pdf</a>. Your Social Security Statement contains information about your earnings history and the Social Security and Medicare taxes you paid, and provides estimates for future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Use your Statement to check your earnings each year. These earnings are used to determine your eligibility for Social Security benefits and your benefit amount. If you see an error on your earnings record, report it to us. Learn how at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf">ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf</a>.

# Understanding your retirement benefits

Social Security is not meant to be your only source of income in retirement. On average, Social Security will replace about 40% of your annual pre-retirement earnings, although this can vary based on each person's circumstances. Your full retirement age is 67. Starting retirement benefits before your full retirement age (as early as age 62) lowers this percentage and starting benefits after your full retirement age (up to age 70) increases it. Learn more at ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10035.pdf.

## Save for retirement

In addition to Social Security, you will likely need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to live comfortably in retirement. Because your retirement could last 20 years or more, it is important to begin your financial planning as early as possible.

- If you have a workplace retirement plan, be sure to find out how it works so you can make the most of it. Your employer might match some or all of your plan contributions. If your employer does not offer a plan, there are other ways to save and invest on your own. Learn more about how to save at savingmatters.dol.gov/employees.htm.
- The earlier you start saving, the more time you will have to build your retirement income. For more information on investing and saving, check out *investor.gov*.
- Any amount you can save will add up over time. You can find a savings calculator at <u>investor.gov/financial-tools-calculators/calculators/compoundinterest-calculator</u>.



# Social Security will be there when you retire

The Social Security taxes you pay go into the Social Security Trust Funds that are used to pay benefits to current beneficiaries. The Social Security Board of Trustees estimates that, based on current law, the Trust Funds will be able to pay benefits in full and on time until 2034. In 2034, Social Security would still be able to pay about \$800 for every \$1,000 in benefits scheduled. Learn more at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/ThereForMe">ssa.gov/ThereForMe</a>.

# Benefits last as long as you live

Your Social Security benefits last as long as you live. Our Life Expectancy Calculator can provide a rough estimate of how long you might live based on your age and gender: **ssa.gov/planners/lifeexpectancy.html**.

# Unable to work due to a mental or physical disability

A disability can occur at any age. If you become unable to work at a certain earnings level due to a mental or physical disability, and you meet certain eligibility requirements, you and your family may be able to receive Social Security disability benefits. Learn more about disability benefits at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/disability">ssa.gov/disability</a>. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to adults and children with disabilities who have limited income and resources. Learn more about SSI at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/">ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/</a>.

# **Benefits for family members**

Social Security is here for you even before your retirement years. Children, widows, and widowers may receive survivors benefits to help them cope with the financial loss if you die. Learn more at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf">ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf</a>.

# Impact of other retirement plans

Most pensions or other retirement plans do not affect your Social Security benefits. But if you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. This work may have been for federal, state, or local government or in a foreign country. Learn more at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/gpo-wep">ssa.gov/gpo-wep</a>.

# We are here for you

Social Security covers about 96% of American workers. To learn more about Social Security, visit ssa.gov.



# With you throughout life's journey

Remember that Social Security is with you throughout life's journey. Learn how at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10233.pdf">ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10233.pdf</a>.

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# More years of work may increase your future retirement benefits

Although you need at least 10 years of work, or 40 credits, to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits, we base the amount of your benefit on your highest 35 years of earnings. If you do not have 35 years of earnings by the time you apply for benefits, your benefit amount will be lower than it would be if you worked 35 years. Years with no earnings count as zeroes in the benefit calculation.

You have several years with no earnings on your work record. Additional work will increase your retirement benefits. Each year you work will replace a zero or low earnings year in your Social Security benefit calculation, which could help to increase your benefit amount.

### How we calculate retirement benefits

Social Security bases your retirement benefits on your lifetime earnings. We adjust or "index" your actual earnings to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then we calculate your average indexed monthly earnings from your highest 35 years of earnings. We apply a formula to these earnings to determine the benefit amount you would receive at your full retirement age. Your full retirement age is between 66 and 67, depending on the year you were born. This is the age you can get your full retirement benefit amount. There are factors that can change this amount. Your monthly benefit will be lower if you start them before your full retirement age (as early as age 62) or higher if you start them after your full retirement age (up to age 70). You can see your personalized monthly retirement benefit estimates at different start ages and your full retirement age on your *Social Security Statement*. Learn more at <a href="mailto:ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf">ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf</a>.

# Check your earnings record

Review your earnings in your *Statement*. Compare these earnings with your own records to make sure our information is correct and that we have recorded each year you worked. If you see an error, report it to us so you receive all the benefits you've earned. Learn how at *ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf*.





#### Questions?

To learn more about Social Security, visit <u>ssa.gov</u>. Remember that Social Security is with you throughout life's journey: <u>ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10233.pdf</u>.

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